

Relatives As Caregivers Caregiver

Wisconsin's Caregiver Support Community Statewide
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Relatives As Caregivers

- Kinship
- Grandfamilies
- Relatives As Parents Program (RAPP)

In its 2021 Report to Congress, the Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (SGRG) [Advisory Council](#) defined kin and/ or grandparent caregivers as ***any grandparent or relative adults who have the primary responsibility for grandchildren or other children who cannot remain with their parents.***



An Underserved Population



- [Research](#) shows that kinship often leads to better outcomes for children.
- Generally, fewer placements.
- Greater stability.
- More contact with parents, siblings, and other kin.
- Generally, better mental and physical health, fewer behavior problems, higher levels of competence, higher levels of placement satisfaction, and better outcomes as adults.



An Underserved Population



- According to [Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network](#) at least 2.4 million children are being raised in these families across the United States.
- Reauthorization 2020 – removed the 10% max on grand/kinship families from the [National Family Caregiver Support Program](#) or NFCSP.

Caregiver Specialist



- Dane County AAA – in 2023 served 7 grandfamilies/older relative caregivers for 10% of grants awarded
- Connected with families through local organizations, Rainbow Project
- Referrals from Kinship Care Newsletter



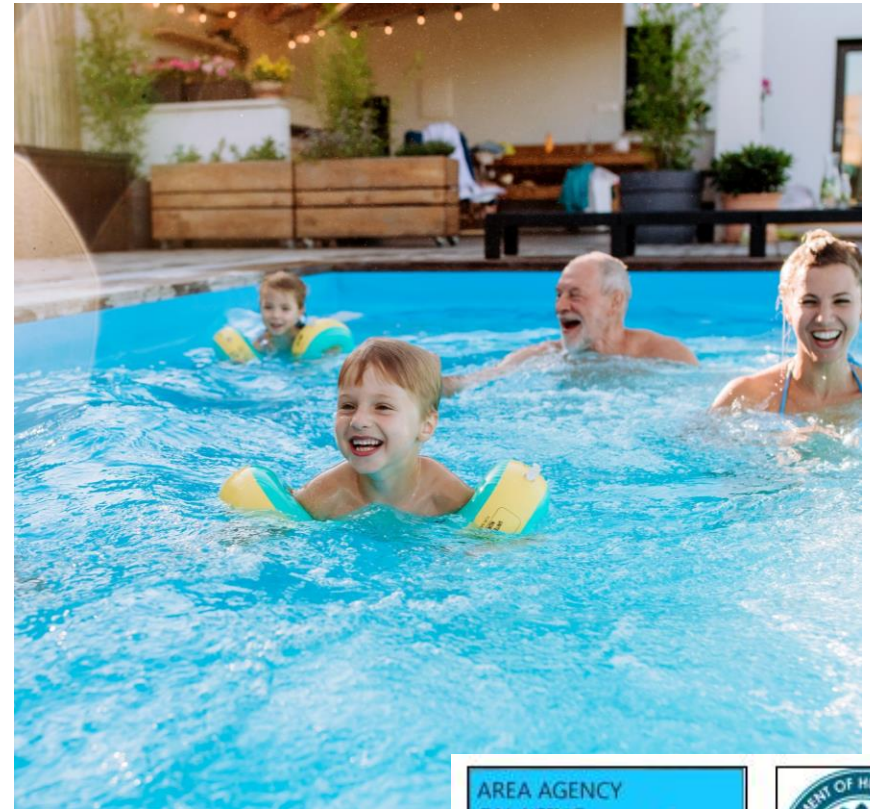
What NFCSP can offer families?

- Summer camp, daycare, or other extracurricular programs
- Sports uniforms, equipment, fees
- Music, dance, art lessons
- Academic programs and tutoring



NFCSP Support for all Family Members

- Respite -
Family/friend/primary CG can receive payment/stipend
- Home modifications to split a room for kids or expand space
- YMCA membership, local pool membership, or passes (can sign on extended family)



Sustaining Older Relative Caregivers of Children

- Therapeutic Yoga, meditation, massage, bodywork, exercise classes
- Transportation for children while they are at work
- Help with cleaning and chores at home



Wisconsin Kinship Care



- Kinship Care is available to families involved in the child welfare system (Child Protective Services, Youth Justice, & Guardianship) and those who are caring for their relatives informally (family arranged plan, voluntary guardianship).
- Eligible kinship care families receive \$375/mo. per child (2024)

Wisconsin Kinship Care Eligibility Requirements



- The basic needs of the child can be better met with the relative than with the parent.
- The placement is in the best interests of the child.
- The child currently or might meet the requirements to need protection or services if the child were to remain with his or her parent(s) (abuse or neglect).

Kinship Navigator Grant

- Federal funding that supports relative caregivers. This funding supports a few projects/resources
- Relative Caregiver Stakeholder Group (RCS)
- Members offer recommendations, feedback, and guidance to DSP on the development of resources, supports, and education for relative caregivers in Wisconsin.





Kinship Navigator Grant

- Federal funding that supports relative caregivers. This funding supports a few projects/resources

1) County, tribes, and non-profits can apply for the Relative Caregiver Supports funding.

- Awarded agencies use the funds for Support Groups, Zoo / YMCA membership, “brief” legal services, and concrete supports.
- Families receiving support do NOT already need to be involved with county services.

Kinship Navigator Grant



2) **Families Like Mine** conference. This annual event is only open to relative caregivers and is planned with their input. Topics have included: Forgiveness, Trauma, The effects of in-utero drug use, court process, mental health of child and caregiver, and self-care. Connecting with other caregivers is also an important part of the day and is always prioritized.



Kinship Navigator Portal



- [Wisconsin Kinship Navigator](#)
- Resource for Relative Caregivers created with guidance from the RCS group (above).
- The purpose is to help caregivers with navigating the Child Welfare system and provide a customized 211-guided search for caregivers.



Wisconsin Kinship Care

Resources:

- [Coalition for Children Youth and Families](#)
- [Kids Matter](#)
- [Generations United](#)
- [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)
- [Grandfamilies Fact Sheet](#)





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A bright yellow sticky note is tilted slightly to the right. It has a grey tab at the top left corner. The words "Thank You!" are written on the note in a blue, hand-drawn, sketchy font. The "Y" in "You!" has a long tail that loops around.